(घ) क्या उक्त संख्या में और राष्ट्रीय नमूना सर्वेक्षण द्वारा पता लगाई गई संख्या में कोई भिन्नता है ?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गोमांगो) : (क) से (घ) देश में गरीबी का आकलन राष्ट्रीय प्रतिदर्श सर्वेक्षण संगठन (एनएसएसओ) द्वारा नहीं बल्कि योजना आयोग द्वारा किया जाता है। तथापि, योजना आयोग गरीबी का आकलन करने के लिए घरेलू उपभोक्ता व्यय पर एनएसएसओ द्वारा आयोजित पंचवार्षिक सर्वेक्षणों के आंकड़ों का सहारा लेता है। घरेलू उपभोक्ता व्यय पर नवीनतम पंचवार्षिक सर्वेक्षण 1987–88 के लिए उपलब्ध है। इस सर्वेक्षण के आधार पर गरीबों की संख्या 23.77 करोड़ होने का अनुमान था। सरकार ने स्वर्गीय प्रो० डी० टी० लकड़वाला की अध्यक्षता में एक विशेषज्ञ दल का गठन किया था, तथा दल ने अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी है। विशेषज्ञ दल ने वर्ष 1987-88 में 31.27 करोड़ व्यक्तियों के गरीबों की रेखा से नीचे होने का अनुमान लगाया है।

Recommendations made by Commission on Irrigation Pricing

381. ESI. ASHOK MITRA: Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations made to the Planning Commission on Irri gation Pricing ;

(b) what are the reasons for not releasing the Report for public discussion ; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee that have been found acceptable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE CIF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The Water Pricing Committee was an internal group set by the Planning Commission on Oct. 1991 to study the Pricing of Irrigation Water. Some salient features of the Report of the Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water include; treating water rates as user's charge ; the objective of water charge is ultimately to recover cost ; linking revision of water rates to the improvement of the quality of service ; revision and implementation of water rates in phases; consolidation of the system of farmer group management; nip-grading the system to higher level efficiency in water use and productivity ; setting up of expert's group at the State level for working out norms and procedure for periodic monitoring; setting up of autonomous boards at the State level to review policy regarding cost of water, revising water rates and introducing a minimum financial return criteria. The copies of the Committer's Report have already been sent to States for their Comments/views. The Planning Commission has set-up a Group of officials to go into the Report of the Committee. "Irrigation" being a State subject, decision on water rates can be taken only in consultation with the State Governments and Union Territories, after the Group of Officials has finalised its views on the action to be taken on the various recommendations of the Committee.

382. *[Transferred to 10th December,* 1993]

Persons below the Poverty Line in the Country Particularly in Gujarat State

383. SHRl VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons/ families below poverty line as on 30th June, 1993 belonging to backward classes and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, State-wise particularly in Gujarat State;

(b) whether there has been any increase/ decrease in the number of those families in comparison to that of the last year;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and

(d) what measures have been adopted by Government to bring these families above the poverty line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission Estimate State-wise number of persons below poverty line on the basis of quinquennial survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The poverty estimates for backward classes are not available. The Statewise poverty estimates for SCs and STs are available only for the years 1977-78 and 1983-84. As such, the estimates of poverty for SCs and STs as on 30th June, 1993 are not available.

(d) A number of programmes are being implemented in order to improve the quality of life of the poor households. These include programmes for raising incomes and generating employment, such as Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). Benefits to SC/ST are specifically earmarked in these programmes. In addition, Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes (SCP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) are being implemented which aim at providing a package of benefits for SC & ST families so as to enable them to meet their specific needs, raise their income and levels of living.

384. *[Transferred to 14th December,* 1993]

Escalation In the Cost of on going PSU Projects

385. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of ongoing Public Sector Undertaking pro jects have risen to Rs. 200,000 crore against the original estimate of appx. Rs. 68 crore;

(b) if so, what are the main sectors of the public sector projects the cost of which have shown phenominal rise;

(c) what are the major causes of cost escalation;

(d) whether according to the cost analysis the cost of the mega and major projects having more than 80 per cent public sector investment is anticipated to rise by the close of the year 1993 ; and

(e) if so, the manner in which Government propose to move in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir, However, as on 1-11-1993, the original cost of 354 projects being monitored by the Departmental of Programme Implementation has risen from Rs. 76,302 crores to Rs. 1,27,000 crores i.e., by about 66.4 percent.

(b) The cost increase of more than 50% over the original cost is in the sector of Atomic Energy, Civil Aviation, Coal, Fertiliser, Information and Broadcasting, Steel & Iron Ore, Power, Heavy Industry and Railways.

(c) The main causes of the cost escalation in projects interalia include; approval of cost at fixed prices without taking into consideration the general escalation in prices, changes in statutory taxes and duties, devaluation of the Rupee against foreign currencies, change in scope of project, etc.

(d) The cost analysis of mega and major projects shows that their cost at Rs. 1,22.069 crores as on 1-11-193 may register an overall additional increase in the range of 1% by the close of 1993.

(e) The Government proposes to finance the gap through increased budgetary support, internal resources and extra-budgetary resources.

386. *[Transferred to 14th December,* 1993]